

# The Ivory Coast and Olympism

*"Land of dialogue and peace, the Ivory Coast calmly proceeds on its unerring march towards progress under the leadership of its enlightened Head of State, President Félix Houphouët-Boigny.*

*Faithful to its tradition of openness and hospitality, its relations with other countries constantly prove its determined search for dialogue between nations and friendship between peoples.*

*Thus, the Ivory Coast could not but subscribe to the ideas of Olympism as expressed by the renovator of the Games, Baron Pierre de Coubertin.*

*Since attaining independence, whatever the difficulties of the time, its representatives have regularly taken part in the great quadrennial meetings of the world's sporting youth.*

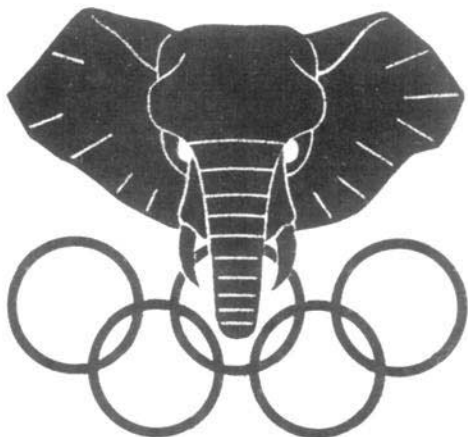
*The participation of the Ivory Coast delegation in the Montreal Games brilliantly illustrates its respect of obligations.*

*The International Olympic Committee has chosen Abidjan as the site of its next meeting. This fortunate choice is in itself recognition of this respect and honours the whole of the Ivory Coast."*

Etienne Ahin, Minister of Public Education,  
Youth and Sport  
24th January 1977

## IVORY COAST

322,500 square kilometres.  
6,200,000 inhabitants.



## COMITE OLYMPIQUE IVOIRIEN (COI)

Recognised by the IOC in 1963.

*President in office:* HE Ambassador Louis Guirandou-N'Diaye\*.

*Secretary General in office:* Honorat Wodie.

*Address:* B.P. V. 136, Abidjan.

*Telephone:* 32-14-77.

## Role of the COI

The Ivory Coast Olympic Committee ensures the Ivory Coast's representation at the Olympic Games.

It upholds the Olympic spirit according to the directions laid down by the International Olympic Committee.

\* See biographical notes.

Every year, it makes medal presentations with the purpose of encouraging the Olympic preparation of athletes recommended by the national sports federations.

The COI settles finally any disputes that may arise between the national federations relating to Olympic matters.

### Creation

In October 1962, the IOC received the request for recognition of an Ivory Coast Olympic Committee. This committee, presided at the time by Loubo Djessou, included the Ivory Coast federations of athletics, basketball, boxing, swimming, handball and cycling. The IOC granted recognition on 18th October 1963 at its 60th Session in Baden-Baden. Consequently, nothing prevented the Ivory Coast's participation in the 1964 Olympic Games.

### First Board of the COI

*PT:* Mr. Loubo Djessou; *VPTs:* Messrs. Henri Amani and Hubert Verlet; *SG:* Mr. Honorat Wodie; *T:* Mr. Valentin Anzouan.

### Evolution

In January 1968, HE Ambassador Louis Guirandou-N'Diaye\* took over leadership of the COI and his authority has held sway to the greater benefit of Olympism in the Ivory Coast. Due to him, the COI has taken part in all Olympiad celebrations, demonstrating a keen independence and pledged steadfastness on the Olympic principles.

### IOC members in the Ivory Coast

1. Louis Guirandou-N'Diaye\*, since 1969.

### Successive Presidents of the COI

1962-1967: Loubo Djessou.

Since 1968: Louis Guirandou-N'Diaye\*.

## THE IVORY COAST AND THE OLYMPIC GAMES

- **Date of first participation: 1964.**



1964 - Gaoussou Kone

### The Ivory Coast Olympic Champions

Although the representatives of the Ivory Coast have not as yet reached the podium, their results are encouraging.

The athlete Gaoussou Kone shows the most praiseworthy Olympic honours list of the Ivory Coast. Finishing sixth in the 1964 Olympic 100 m final in Tokyo, he was 100 m semi-finalist in 1968 at Mexico and also participated in the 4 x 100 m at the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich. Moreover, he won the 100 m at the Friendship Games in Dakar (1963), the 100 m and 200 m at the 1st African Games in Brazzaville (1965) and the 100 m at the 1967 Universiad in Tokyo. In 1973, he again took part in the finals of the 100 m and 4 x 100 m at the 2nd African Games in Lagos.

In Montreal, at the celebration of the XXIst Olympiad, Meité Mamadou reached the semi-finals of the 100 m.

### Representation of the Ivory Coast at the Olympic Games from 1964 to 1976

	Athletics	Boxing	Canoeing	Total
1964	6	3	—	9
1968	7	—	3	10
1972	8	—	7	15
1976	10	—	—	10

## PRESENT ORGANISATION OF THE COI

- *Members of the present Board*

*PT:* HE Ambassador Louis Guirandou-N'Diaye\*, IOC member; *VPTs:* Messrs. Boniface Gotta and Koffi Guipro; *SG:* Mr. Honorat Wodie; *T:* Mr. Moïse Bodo; *M:* Mr. Mory Soro Ouattara.

- *The statutes* of the COI were adopted on 11th September 1962.

- *Composition*

The Ivory Coast Olympic Committee comprises the representatives of the national sports federations whose sports appear on the Olympic Games' programme and the IOC member in the Ivory Coast. Other members of the COI, but in a consultative capacity only, are the President and Secretary General of the National Sports Board, delegates of the national federations whose sports are recognised by the IOC but which do not appear on the programme of the Games, as well as co-opted members and personalities who have rendered or are likely to render distinguished services to the cause of the NOC.

- *The Board*, elected by the Assembly for four years, is made up of a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Sec-

retary General and a Treasurer, together with the country's IOC member. It administers the COI with extensive powers.

- *Meetings*

An ordinary General Assembly has to be convened during the six months following an Olympiad celebration. This Assembly elects the Board and appoints the auditors... If two thirds of the COI members who have voting rights so request, an extraordinary General Assembly is held within the next two months. At meetings, decisions are taken by absolute majority on the first ballot and by relative majority on following ballots.

Outside the General Assembly, the Ivory Coast Olympic Committee meets in principle every three months. In a year when no General Assembly is held, the first quarter's meeting has to include a review of the previous year's activities, as well as a financial report.

- **Financing of the COI**

Administrative costs and expenses incurred in the Ivory Coast's preparation for and participation in the Olympic Games are guaranteed by official subsidies and federal subscriptions.

## Federations affiliated to the COI

Olympic federations	Date of creation	Affiliation NOC	Affiliation IF	1964	Members in		1976
					1972	1975	
Athletics	1960	1962	1962	3000	4140	4140	4300
Basketball	1948	1962	1961	800	2300	3000	3400
Boxing	1955	1962	1961		260	260	300
Canoe-kayak	1965	1967	1967			85	65
Cycling	1961	1963	1961		80	66	81
Football	1960	1962	1964		5470	1926	2000
Handball	1960	1962	1962		2354	2405	2922
Judo	1960	1962	1961		750	900	1400
Swimming	1960	1962	1961	20	250	860	1150
Volleyball	1961	1962	1964		2400	2300	3000



## THE COI AND OLYMPISM

- **Olympic Day**

The COI has regularly set aside a day or a week for Olympism since 1968.



- **International Olympic Academy**

Participation of Ivory Coast students in the IOA's courses is planned in the near future.



- **Protection of the Olympic emblems**

The COI has undertaken to protect these emblems and restrict the use of the terms "Olympic" and "Olympiad" to Olympic activities alone.

## SPORT IN THE IVORY COAST

- **Other sports governing bodies**

The Ivory Coast Olympic Committee shares the responsibility and management of the sports movement with the Sports Minister and National Sports Board.

- **State aid for the sports movement**

The State is responsible for national sports policy. In this respect, its actions for promoting or encouraging the practice of sport at all levels are varied, for example, participation in the construction of sports installations, and assistance such as financial support for the 14 existing sports federations by granting administrative subsidies or special subsidies for international competitions in which the winning clubs of the national cup and national championship are involved.

The sports federations constitute private, autonomous associations which are directly responsible for the management of clubs; they do not benefit from any other source of financing apart from that of the State.

In the legal field, the State is responsible for passing sports legislation.

- **Sport at school**

In addition to physical training, pupils receive sports training which is integrated into the physical education teaching programme. In secondary schools, with the creation of Sports Promotion Centres (CAS), pupils benefit from a more specialised sports training which enables them to advance in the multi-discipline sports competitions organised by the OISSU (Ivory Coast School and Student Sports Board). In this manner, school prepares young athletes for an eventual integration into top level civil sports competitions.

- **Formation of sports leaders**

This is one of the ways the State intervenes in the sports sphere. In a specialised school, that is the INJS (National Youth and Sports Institute), it trains technicians who are qualified both to teach physical and sports education in secondary and upper school establishments and to be artisans of the sports policy by a practical and technical intervention in State institutions or within the federations.

Other initiatives are also taken in the field of training leaders, for example:

- the organisation of conferences, seminars, training and refresher courses;
- the organisation of information courses.

- **Sports installations**

1. Stadia

	<i>stadia</i>	<i>seats</i>
<i>Abidjan</i>	3	
— Houphouët-Boigny stadium		25,000
— Champroux stadium		5,000
— Sports park		10,000
<i>Bingerville</i>	1	3,000
<i>Bouake</i>	1	20,000
<i>Bondoukou</i>	1	10,000
<i>Daloa</i>	1	10,000
<i>Gagnoa</i>	1	10,000
<i>Odienne</i>	1	10,000
<i>Dimbokro</i>	1	10,000
<i>Man</i>	1	5,000
<i>Abengourou</i>	1	3,000

2. Swimming pools

	<i>swimming pools</i>
<i>Abidjan</i>	2
<i>Bingerville</i>	1
<i>Korhogo</i>	1



- **Number of practising sportsmen**

One in 200.

- **Sports experiencing the greatest development**

Football, athletics and boxing.

- **Sports which draw the biggest crowds**

Football and boxing.

## **THE IVORY COAST AND THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATIONS**

Besides HE Ambassador Louis Guirandou-N'Diaye\*, IOC member since 1969, Vice-President from 1961 to 1975 then honorary member of the International Judo Federation, let us mention Dr. Constant Roux, member of the Medical Commission of the Fédération Internationale de Volleyball.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES**

### **HE Louis Guirandou-N'Diaye**

Ivory Coast Ambassador, IOC member since 1969, President of the Ivory Coast Olympic Committee since 1968.

Born in Dakar, Louis Guirandou-N'Diaye completed most of his studies in Paris—Bachelor of Laws, Institute of Political Studies, Institute of Anglo-Saxon Legal Terminology, Institute of Higher Overseas Studies—before going to the United States as a Fulbright scholarship holder to improve his knowledge of political science.

Polyglot, he was in charge of the Ivory Coast's litigious affairs from 1957, assistant to the Director of Political

Affairs in 1958, before becoming a highly respected diplomat. He stayed in London from 1961 to 1965, directed administrative, financial and consular affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 1965 to 1970, then was successively appointed Ambassador in Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania, and, in 1975, Plenipotentiary Ambassador Extraordinary of the Ivory Coast to the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Keen sportsman practising football, basketball and volleyball, he specialised in the martial arts, obtaining black belt VIth dan in judo, and black belt in aikido and karate.

He has also been very active in sports administration. Besides his Olympic duties, he has held or holds responsibility for the Ivory Coast Judo Federation (since 1961), the presidency of



the African and Madagascan Judo Union, and the vice-presidency of the International Judo Federation (1969-1975), becoming its first honorary member.

Within the IOC, his shrewdness and clear-cut opinions are widely appreciated. He has been or is a member of the following commissions: Information and Culture (1973-1974), Rules Reviewing (1973) and Publications (1974). He is holder of many national and foreign decorations.